

We have middle school grandchildren who live on tribal lands. They are not tribal members; they can't hunt big game at home. Their big game hunting opportunity comes when they visit us for Thanksgiving every two years. They could gain extra experience, and special family time with their parents, if they could begin hunting on that alternate year before they reached the magic age of twelve. When high school comes, they'll be obligated to basketball tournaments on Thanksgiving weekend, and their big game hunting opportunity will be gone until they are adults. Will they still be interested then?

In closing, I'd like to say that "hunting" and "killing" are not synonymous. Taking a new hunter hunting, doesn't mean the person will kill something. They will enjoy and marvel at the natural activities and wildlife they observe. They will learn the thrill of the stalk. Perhaps they'll get to make the choice whether to take an animal or not. They may get to exercise their skill in shooting. They'll always carry those special days in their hearts.

I thank you for your vote in support of HB 382.

*Among your acquaintances are several young men from states which recognize mentored hunting. They began hunting with firearms between ages 6 + 10. They are ethical, respectful, & very cautious. They are excellent marksmen. Their ability and behavior has helped persuade me to the value of mentored hunting for youngsters.*

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